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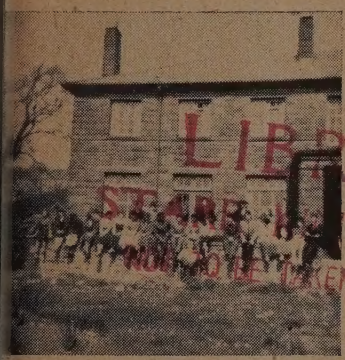
THE UNITARIAN

A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS



U.Y.P.L. BRIDGE-BUILDING INTER-RACIAL WEEK-END

By Ann Boon, of Liverpool

I travelled from Liverpool to Great Hucklow on Friday evening, April 12th, to attend a Racial Harmony Conference arranged by the South Lancashire Region of the Unitarian Young People's League.

A wonderful week-end began immediately I stepped off the train at Manchester Central Station. A group of young people bundled themselves into the train for Millers Dale. Not very often have people travelling on the 7.38 from Manchester seen in two compartments the youth of India, Nigeria, Jamaica, South Africa and England happily chatting together. Maybe it was the fact that we were such an unusual group that accounted for us being told, when we got off at the wrong station, that it was the wrong station, before we even became aware of the fact.

We arrived at Nightingale Home and immediately had supper. This was followed by the U.Y.P.L. ritual of Great Hucklow, the Get-together. It is a difficult game for me in normal circumstances, but added to this there were the unusual names, not only of my companions on the train, but of other English friends who arrived later, and also a young man from Pakistan.

After the Get-together we talked in groups in the lounge, mainly telling each other about our respective religions. That evening, geography became alive for me. I learnt a little about Nigeria from a Nigerian. The forest really was dense, the sun hot and the people alive. I was told all this many times in school, now for the first time I knew it. I believe that throughout the week-end many people felt the same way about many of the topics we discussed, formally and informally. And so to bed on Friday.

Saturday was a truly beautiful day. When we arose, the sun was shining and between breakfast and our first discussion we went a short walk. All the time I was learning simple things, interesting things. Surely I realised that in South Africa, for one place, one has to be careful where one throws rubbish; a melon might grow where it is not required. I had not realised; now I shall never forget.

Our discussion on Saturday morning took the form of questions to a panel consisting of Krishna from India, Joe from Jamaica, Tom from Sheffield, with Dudley in the chair. I cannot attempt to describe what took place. We did not argue, although views were often different,

and we talked of the problems of a coloured person finding good accommodation. Oh ! why are the English all so worried about what the neighbours think ? That seems to be the basic cause of this difficulty. We discussed the social acceptance of coloured people, the problems to be faced in marriage, the acceptance of a white girl as the wife of a coloured boy who takes his wife home to his own country.

Then there was the tragedy that politics have brought about in South Africa. These are problems. I think people are vaguely aware of them, but seldom face them realistically. We are all children of God, no more, no less.

We split into small groups for a walk on Saturday afternoon, during which we discussed what became known as "the ten points," ideas on what we could do to increase racial harmony.

The social on Saturday evening was "terrific." I am sure every one enjoyed it, and racial harmony flourished.

There was a service in the Old Chapel on Sunday morning. Attendance was voluntary of course. We all prayed together to God for peace in our world. We were not all Christians, but nobody appeared to care. It was a lovely simple service, proof in the fact that I understood it all.

Sunday afternoon was spent taking photographs and holding a meeting on the terrace. A committee was appointed, consisting of coloured and white folk, to decide what was to be done to keep this conference alive in the minds of the people attending it, and also to make the best use of what we had learnt.

We parted, loving our neighbours all agreeing that the most wonderful thing was simply that we had met together in happy comradeship. In summing up my personal feelings I would like to say that although I have always known colour discrimination to be wrong, despite myself I could not feel completely at ease with coloured folk. It took just one unforgettable week-end to help me

Inter-Racial statuar

It is the person that matters. H colour, be it black, white or glorious mixture, matters not a bi

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GLOUCESTER has received a gene ous donation from Miss Gertru Minna Davis, daughter of a form minister, Rev. Rudolf Davis. It to be used to start an organ improv ment fund.

ADVENTURE IN CAFES

By Joyce Hazlehurst

During meals one day at the G.A. meeting this year everything happened. At lunch two people sitting opposite me were suddenly drenched with soup. At tea, in another café, I sat down unwittingly beside a drunken man. He watched with bleary-eyed astonishment while a procession of men in dog-collars (straight from our meetings) queued up for food. "Lot of b— parsons about," he exclaimed to me. I agreed, then listened to his troubles. . . .

Reflecting on all this later, I recalled how often I have caught glimpses of other people's lives in cafés—humorous, dramatic or sad. One such incident concerned a waitress. She was a pretty little thing, very young, who worked in a café near the library where I was studying for exams. She became quite a friend, intensely interested in my career, and as anxious for me to obtain my degree as if she had been my own relative. I promised to let her know the results at once. So when I heard the glad tidings, I hastened down to the café. She congratulated me warmly. Then she said rather shyly, "And now do you mind if we talk about *me*."

A tragic little story tumbled out. Although under twenty and not long married, she had already been separated from her husband for several months. "We quarrelled over something and nothing," she said. "And to-night we are going to meet again and I think it will be a reconciliation." I believe she was right, for when I next called at the café, she had left.

Brave, unselfish little soul! For weeks she had been interesting herself in her customers' lives and listening to their chat, when all the time her own happiness lay in ruins. "And now do you mind if we talk about *me*?" Oh for more sensitivity to other people's needs!

UNITARIAN PUBLICITY

Dr. Jeremy Goring's Advice

One of the liveliest sessions at this year's General Assembly at Birmingham was the Friday morning conference on "Presenting our Faith to the outside world." It was a pity that by the time Friday morning came, so many delegates had had to go home. The addresses deserved a full session.

The Rev. Keith Treacher, of Highgate and Golders Green prepared the ground for a professional advertiser. He showed the supreme importance of advertising our faith if we believed in it. "I will not serve decay," he said. "I will not serve defeat." It may be true that God is present where two or three are gathered together, but Mr. Treacher added, "I'm not interested in two or three, but in two or three hundred."

Dr. Jeremy Goring, formerly Lay Preacher in charge of Forest Gate congregation, backed up this plea by showing that quite a number of Unitarians would have become Unitarian church members years before they did, if only they had heard about our faith and message. He went on to give practical advice about publicity, as a professional advertiser. It was pointed out later in the meeting that in practical affairs professional advice should not only be listened to; it should be acted upon.

The main points he raised were these. Better use should be made of church notice boards. Here is our "point of sale." At one church the only announcement on the board was about a local Judo Club.

Next we should all "trade under the same name," and the name we are known by is "Unitarian." That name should appear on all our notice boards and literature, and it should be printed in one distinctive type wherever it is used, so that it can be quickly recognised. Inciden-

tally it should not be printed in capitals, since the name is too long to strike the eye satisfactorily. When printed in a suitable lower case, the nearly central "t" stands out and hooks the letters together.

Also we should adopt a denominational symbol to express the spirit of our movement, a symbol which should also be used on every notice board, letter-head and every piece of literature or advertisement we use.

The General Assembly is establishing a Publicity Department, and Dr. Goring pointed out the important help it might give to congregations in producing more attractive calendars, posters and leaflets, and in planning Advance Campaigns.

... but I was always under the impression that a G.A. Church meant a Grant-Aided Church!

DUKINFIELD is organising a waste-paper salvage drive in aid of the 250th Anniversary Bazaar Fund. A recipe book compiled by members of the refreshment stall is on sale at 2s. 6d. and looks like selling out early.

PLYMOUTH. The Mock Wedding reception in February was a popular event, with a fine "wedding breakfast" and appropriate speeches and most amusing costumes. A gift of £26 to the minister from the balance in hand was voted at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

SIMPLEX ENVELOPE PLAN

At the General Assembly it was reported that a number of congregations had now adopted the Simplex Envelope Scheme, by which church members pay in one weekly envelope not only their church contribution, but also a contribution to their local District Association, and a contribution to the General Assembly. Churches which had started it during 1956 have already found that their contributions to the G.A. is very much increased, and so is the money received for their own funds.

Another important money-raising plan which more and more churches are using is getting income-tax-paying members to take out a seven-year covenant, under which income-tax is re-funded.

One Church member has written to his Church Treasurer:

"Why did you not tell us before how simple this Covenant scheme really is? After hearing you speak at the recent A.G.M. I decided to do something about it.

"As I see it, the income-tax which I pay the standard rate of 8s. 6d. in the £ on an amount of £4 10s. 5d. a year is £1 18s. 5d.—far too much, I think, but it still leaves me £2 12s. to spend. If I choose to 'covenant' this nett sum, which comes to only 1s. per week, to the Church for a period of seven years, you, as Treasurer, can reclaim the income-tax which I have paid, and therefore the Church benefits to the extent of £2 12s. *plus* £1 18s. 5d. My wife has promised to save a bob a week out of the house-keeping money and add her contribution to mine, so that both shillings can be covenanted. She understands that the covenant expires at my death, so that she will not be involved in any way then. Keep on talking about it; many others may join once they realise how much it means to you."

CHILDREN'S CORNER

More Troubles at the "Parlour

"Ting - a - ling - a - ling-ting-ting-rrrr

tion to the resolution about civil and religious liberty on the grounds that it was pious and empty of value. It was carried nevertheless. The resolution on the H-bomb—"that this meeting...without expressing any opinion on the wisdom or otherwise of retaining atom and hydrogen bombs in its possession, or threatening their use under circumstances, urges H.M. Government to refrain from any further explosion with these weapons in view of the consequent risk of grave peril to the health and sanity of future generations on earth" was carried with six dissentients after two amendments had been strongly debated. The first, moved by the Rev. L. Redfern and seconded by the Rev. G. Randall Jones, urged action through the United Nations rather than unilateral action, was lost by a considerable majority. The second, moved by the Rev. A. W. Vallance and seconded by the Rev. Joyce Hazlehurst, asked the Government to announce to the United Nations that it would proceed no further with the manufacture, stockpiling, basing or testing of nuclear weapons. This was defeated by three votes only. Strong support was given to the original resolution by Mr. Chuter Ede who said: "I believe that throughout the world people are waiting for a nation to say 'We are not going to have another explosion.'" He wanted Great Britain to be that nation.

THE CHURCHES

OVERSEAS: WEST AFRICA: At the General Assembly in Birmingham, the Unitarian Church at Lagos, Nigeria, was welcomed into membership. This is a well established congregation, and our first affiliated in West Africa.

FLOWERY FIELD CHURCH, Hyde, held a Confirmation Service on Palm Sunday evening, which was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Hyde. The Children's Church has held a Bring-and-Buy Sale which raised over £8 for the Essex Hall fund.

HINCKLEY Sunday School recorder players have started a small orchestra.

LEEDS. MILL HILL Chapel is being re-decorated, and it is hoped to have it ready for an All Faiths Service on June 2nd.

LIVERPOOL. GATEACRE Chapel is to crown its first Rose Queen at the evening School Anniversary service on June 23rd.

MANCHESTER. ALTRINCHAM Sunday School presented an Easter Play "The Children from Galilee" on Maundy Thursday evening before Communion Service. A party of children with three of the staff visited Salford Museum and Art Gallery during the Easter holidays. Christine Needham, Y.P.L. secretary, was crowned ninth May Queen on May 5th at evening service. The Study Circle is discussing the question of the possibility of accommodating forms of worship to the needs of people with humanist outlook. At present it is a very open question. BLACKLEY men are decorating the interior of their chapel themselves, and a joint working party with Stand and Blackley U.Y.P.L. members is planning to redecorate the Sunday School at MIDDLETON. CHORLTON U.Y.P.L. attended a special 8 a.m. service on Easter Sunday before going off to Great Hucklow for the day. £150 was raised at the spring fair. The Women's League paid a visit to the Windsor Theatre, Salford.

Central Postal Mission
ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, June 13th, 1957, 7 p.m., 14, Gordon Square W.C.1.
Chairman: Mrs. H. Ballantyne.

Speaker: Rev. J. P. Chalk.

"What has Unitarianism to offer?"

Reception and Refreshments

MANCHESTER DISTRICT WOMEN'S LEAGUE. The Spring Meeting was held in the beautifully renovated church at Leigh on Wednesday, April 10th, when 150 members, representing 31 branches, attended. The service was conducted by our National President, Mrs. Jessel, M.A., and the evening meeting was addressed by Mrs. E. R. Mansell on the keeping of medical records, disease classification and associated subjects.

RECOMMENDED

Professor Basil Willey's Essex Hall Lecture "*The Religion of Nature*" (Lindsey Press, 2s.) is largely a reappraisal of Wordsworth's sense of religious stimulation in the presence of natural beauty and grandeur. Its clear expression and modern approach make it a valuable statement. The lecturer recognises in the Religion of Nature "probably the oldest of all religions" and one that "has survived the victory of the supernatural religions." When we face Nature in all its terrifying as well as its beautiful manifestations it appears an unsatisfactory substitute for the God of love revealed in Christ, but his conclusions that the religion of nature can give "massive satisfaction" to deep cravings which normally remain unfulfilled in the activities of modern life.

UNITARIAN PRINCIPLES

We believe that God is Love; that His Love is revealed supremely in Jesus and in many saintly and heroic lives; that His Spirit guides those who seek Him into the way of truth and righteousness; that the Church is the fellowship of those who desire God's inspiration for their daily lives; and that the true bond of unity between the members of a church is never a form of words, or imposed creed, but a unity of spirit that seeks the truth in love.

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Every Saturday, Price 3d.
Obtainable from Newsagents, Bookstalls, or your Church.
By subscription, £1 1s. 8d. per annum from "The Inquirer" Office, 14, Gordon Square, W.C.1.

THE LINDSEY PRESS
Religion in a Changing World: Unitarians State Their Faith
Nineteen numbers have been issued to date. The last three titles are as follows:
"The Gospels To-day," by L. A. Garrard, B.D., M.A.
"Freedom, Authority and Liberal Christianity," by F. Kenworthy, M.A., B.D.
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Northern Sunday School Federation
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Vacancies in July and August September and October.
Bookings to the Secretary.

EDINBURGH HOLIDAY COURSE FOR TEACHERS
August 3rd to 10th, 1957
Arranged by N.S.S.F. and R.E.Y.D. Write Rev. Gordon L. Clarke, 42, Schofield Road, Rawtenstall, Rossendale, Lancs.

UNITARIANS IN THE NEWS

Mr. George Jones, of Pendleton, has been made an Honorary Life-Member of the Church Committee.

The two oldest Unitarian ladies in the country, the Misses Badland, of Kidderminster, one aged 101 and one 105, both regular attenders at the New Meeting, were recently presented to Her Majesty the Queen.

Richmond congregation has two members of advanced age apart from their nonagenarian organist. Mr. Barber celebrated his 99th birthday in April, and Mr. Sutcliffe his 89th in March.

Miss J. F. Worthington, of Altrincham congregation was 90 in February.

The Rev. H. J. McLachlan, M.A., D.Phil., of Belfast, is now on a visit to Czechoslovakia at the invitation of the Czechoslovak Church as an official guest on the 500th anniversary of the founding of the Moravian Church. His previous visits were in 1933 and 1934 when he both attended meetings and climbed in the High Tatra of the Carpathians. He is to address the Moravian General Convention, and will lecture at the University of Prague.

The Rev. F. J. Hamblin, of Heywood, is going to Coseley. Rev. D. M. Klugel to Ilminster and Yeovil, and Rev. E. H. Morris, who has returned from Auckland, New Zealand, is going to Coventry.

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